

“Publishers Clearing House” Scam

There is a new twist on an old scam. Don't be fooled. Recently we received a complaint regarding a suspicious check sent to a Brownsville resident indicating that she had won a third place prize in the Grand Prize Drawing sponsored by Martha Stewart Living Magazine. The directions on the mailing ask the recipient to call an 800 number before cashing the check. The phone number was tracked to an unknown address in Canada.

Enclosed in the mailing was a check issued to the resident for \$5340.00. The check shows that it was drafted from an Upshall, Cooper, & Temple at an address in Penacook, New Hampshire and issued through Bank of New Hampshire. The Bank of New Hampshire went out of business. The check was a fake and the account did not exist. The Upshall, Cooper & Temple does not exist but Upshall, Cooper & Temple was an attorney's office that closed its practice July 18, 2008. The check is a very convincing fake but is in fact a fake check.

I have since found other variations of this mailing on the Internet from “Publishers Clearing House.” These other mailings have some of the same information with slight variations to include different dollar amounts, account numbers and banks.

Don't be fooled, if it looks too good to be true it probably is.

Should you have any questions on this or any other crime, please feel free to contact the Dodge County Sheriff's Office at 920-386-3726.